

The New BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The New BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you a little more often than monthly, more or less, by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Subs are available for \$3/12, and openings are available only in my second Special TEN-DAY-DEADLINE game for a \$2 gamefee plus sub, or \$3 withOUT sub. TnBB specializes in fast games, and hopes to provide an open forum for all, not just the press writers of 1979E, the first 10-day Special. Contributions and views on ALL SUBJECTS are encouraged. Reactionary stuff is preferred, it coinciding better with the views of the editor, but I'll print anything, as a mere glance at recent 79E press will prove....

Lots of odds and ends this issue, so let me jump right into them. First, if any of you tried working Dave Ditter's puzzle last issue concerning the mystery paragraph, the answer is that it contained no E's, the most common letter in English. How about an easier one from a new subscriber? What is the next letter in this series, and why? O,T,T,F,F,S,S,E,___

The EASTERN FRONT WARGAME finally has some progress to report, as you will find on numerous pages this issue. If my presentation is too high or too low or too dumb or whatever for you, please let me know. It is an advanced variant, not at all familiar to even those within the wargaming community, so I'm not really sure how to best present it. Your comments will be appreciated. ALSO, for those of you able to follow it, there is a typo in the "Editor's comments" where I wrote that the Axis commander must "destroy 12 Soviet cities" for a chance at victory. That should have read "at least 12 Soviet cities in 1941" for a chance at victory. At best, I've seen as many as 20 cities go under, but with the Soviet defense what it is in this one, I doubt if we'll see that here. If Bill Shaffer continues his sample openings against the unnamed Soviet player, at least one, and just possibly both of THOSE might produce a 1941 total of 20, but that's up to them. This game is way too much work for me to effectively "GM" more than one. If they want to keep their own records, though, I'll act as intermediary and roll the dice, and report at intervals here.

STAR WARS will return in September for a brief 2-3 week run, according to everyone's favorite SF reporter, TONY WATSON of RURITANIA fame. (201 Minnesota St, Las Vegas, NV 89107). Also, he reports that the sequel is to have something about a bounty hunter out after Solo. I'll be glad to pass on whatever I hear, but for now, I have trouble enough just trying to find the Sunday comics that are running a SW strip. I only see the daily once a week, Saturday. Those are usually tackier--I hope I'm not missing anything good.

POSTAL WARNING TO ALL: effective July 15, the Post Office will start to really

enforce their new rule regarding minimum size (3½x5), AND, envelopes larger than the standard legal size (no bigger than the one this issue came in, that is), will incur a 7¢ surcharge due to having to be handled by hand. THAT will likely cause trouble for a LOT of publishers who fold their zines just once, staple it, and send it first class. A 5½x8½ could be considered what in postal jargon is a "flat" to which the surcharge applies, so if you get some zines later this month that arrive 7¢ postage-due, that's why. (I suggest you pay it and accept the zine, but you don't have to. You can mark the "postage due" cover "Refused" and leave it for the mailman to take back, and owe nothing. You can't have opened it, though. They'll return it to the pubber, and HE'll then pay.)

As of Saturday, July 7, there are TWO openings left in the next 10-day-deadline game. Due to restrictions on state and 79E players carrying over, I can assure you that Bill Shaffer will NOT be in that one, so don't let that scare you off! Seriously, I hope to get it started in the next issue. You can run into Bill elsewhere, so get your press pens filled...

CRUDE OIL prices I mentioned last issue have since been updated, and the "un-controlled" price is going through the roof. The June 1 price (latest officially available) hit a flat \$22 a barrel. (Remember, it was \$15.10 December 31). One price we were just quoted was \$25 a barrel early this month, and that from a major. This exceeds the OPEC official ceiling price. If it goes up much more beyond the transport costs, it might become cheaper to buy Arab oil than to buy our own. Prices this winter are going to be fantastic. And Carter plans to run next year? I'll bet that the Kennedy-draft forces suck him in after all, watch.

ORIGINS 80 will be held at Newark, Delaware, according to BROUHAHA #35. Also, DIPCON 80 will be held in conjunction with Michicon next year in Detroit, not with Origins again. (Good. There's just an outside chance I could go to Michigan).

FLASH! Gross Herr Oberst Konrad hoch-und-zu Baumeister, Esq., GmbH, is really Irish per Bill LaFosse in his TORONTO TELEGRAM #4. And all this time I thought Konrad was a refugee from Argentina....

Speaking of Konrad, here's an excerpt from a letter from John Kelley (The BEHOLDER): "Yes, Eric Clapton does sound better than an automatic rifle. He sounds more like a deranged machine gun..." Comments, Konrad?

Clapton is Konrad's favorite, but my own tastes are conservative Classical, excepting my favorite, Toni Tennille (of The Captain & Tennille). And even there, her singing can be here or there, as I'm really only in love with her body...

GREG COSTIKYAN has become Miller Number Custodian, which is the Boardman Number Custodian for variants. See a possible item on this within.

ANDY LISCHETT, 3025 N Davlin Ct., Chicago 60618 is seeking standbys for his mini-zine CHEESECAKE which is FREE to standbys! The price is right!

JOHN LEEDER, of RUNESTONE, the Canadian WEEKLY Dipzine, has changed his address to 121 Nineteenth Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 1N6. This was effective in May or June, but I didn't hear about it until those RUNESTONES arrived here July 7th.

GREEN is a strange color to see in Oklahoma this time of year, but the rains have been so thankfully heavy for a change that the state still looks that way. Usually it's brown from June to September. The dummer locals complain, but it could rain every day and suit me just fine. Local weathermen use terms like "a fine sunny day" to describe this present sweltering 98° crap. I don't know if the Chamber of Commerce puts them up to that or if they're just morons....

JUL 2 1979

79E

OTTOMANS LOOKING TO SURVIVE, OTHERS HANG ON. GERMANY MOVES
 INTO A THIRD MAJOR CAPITOL, HER OWN....
 THEME OF PRESS THE SAME.

CORRECTION to 1907 Chart: TURKEY gained CON back, deducting this from Austria. So Austria only plays two short, not three, and Turkey need only remove one, not two.

Winter, 1907: English A Nwy r FIN; Turkish A Con r OTB; Austria builds A BUD, A VIE;
 England builds F EDI

SPRING, 1908:

AUSTRIA (Frost): F Tri-ALB; A VEN H; F NAP-Tyn; A MUN S A Ber-Sil; A Ber-SIL;
 A War-LVN; A MOS S A War-Lvn; A Arm-SMY; F AEG S A Arm-Smy; F Ank-
 CON; A BUL S F Ank-Con; A Bud-GAL; A Vie-TYO

ENGLAND (Shaffer): F EDI-Nwg; A Fin-SWE; F Mar-GLYO; F Por-Spasc/NSU; F NTH C A
 Yor-Hol; A Yor-HOL; F Eng-BRE; F Hol-HLG;

GERMANY (Kador): A Lon-YOR; A Par-GAS; A Pru-BER; F KIE S A Pru-Ber; F NWY-Nwg

ITALY (Pilant): A ROM H; F TUN-Tyn

TURKEY (Baumeister): F ION-Tun; F Smy-Aeg/d/r Syr,Eas,Otb; A STP S GERMAN A Pru-Lvn/NSO

Ah, what joys, even as we approach the eleventh hour. The latter will strike with my mail received here THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1979, and may be conditional on retreats. Press follows:

(No dateline): OK, Shaffer. If you want to win your bet, you have to gain 3 centers and you also have to build 3 more units. That'll be the day that Nixon gets re-elected President.

ITALIO-IBERIAN EMPIRE-IN-EXILE which has Returned: Governor Pontus Pilant, having reviewed the hopelessness of your situation, accepts the concession to Italy. You may lick my boots in gratitude.

CONSTANTINOPIE: If Shaffer is like his sister, could Billy Boy have the same desires?

PARIS: Shaf-fer-i-sm (shäf' fer iz em) adj. 1. lack of intelligence, dullness. 2. obtuse; moronic. 3. ergocephalic; pinheaded. 4. bovine, hebetate: "The wrath of the Shaffer has laid waste to the world quite as often as has the craft of the bright" (Time). (American, derived from Bill Shaffer, the unimaginably stupidist player of a game called Diplomacy in the late 20th Century. It is likely that Shaffer is an apocryphal concept combining dogshit and chicken brains rather than a sentient being.)

A-H to TURKEY & ENGLAND: "Die, you egg-sucking dogs!"

A-H to ITALY: Come, let us retake some centers from England.

A-H to GERMANY: Do not worry, you will finish second.

MORE PRESS FOLLOWS!

((All draws & concessions fail. There are calls for an AGIT draw, and concessions to A, E, and I. NVR = No to all)) J.M.

LONDON: "Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the press. My client, Mr. Shaffer, will entertain questions for only a few minutes. Please be brief and to the point. I'll now recognize reporters. Yes? Go ahead?"

"John Kador, Berlin Zeitung. Mr. Shaffer, your winning the Ergocephalic Award for Distinguished Stupidity in Diplomacy comes as no surprise to the world. Still, were you as confident as you appeared?"

"I think so, yes. After all, I considered very carefully the stab for which I was nominated. I inspected every angle to make sure my stab could in no way be interpreted rationally. It was stupid in every respect. With such planning, I was confident that the Academy would accept my move as the definition of stupidity for generations. Next question, please."

"Uli Baumesiter, Constantinople Enquirer. Mr. Shaffer, were you always so stupid?"

"I'd like to think so. I truly believe I represent the American Dream: the culmination of stupidity over reason. Oh sure, I remember the early days when I used to study for urine tests. But then I discovered the wonderful secret of stupidity and it has carried me on a marvelous journey of self-discovery. It's such a joy to get in touch with one's own fundamental stupidity."

"Mark Berch, International Herald Tribune. What are your current plans for pursuing stupidity, Mr. Shaffer?"

"Well, I'm working on a tournament scoring system for Diplomacy. I really can't say any more about it because that would be stupid. Hmm . . . Well, you talked me into it! Very simply, my scoring system awards points on the basis of the diameter of a player's asshole."

"A follow-up, Mr. Shaffer! Jack Frost, Vienna Weekly Reader. Under your scoring system, wouldn't you always win?"

"Right. I may be stupid but I'm also a greedy censoreducker."

"Dave Pilant, Vatican News Service. Bill, would you comment on the article in this morning's Washington Post that suggests your "stupidity" is a result of congenital retardation and you're not responsible for your actions?"

"That's a lie! Stupid is as stupid does! This nice man here will tell you that, and if I could ^{get} my arms out of this funny coat, I'd show you what stupid is! "

"Gentlemen, I believe Mr. Shaffer has had enough excitement for today. Visiting hours at The George Armstrong Custer home for the Incurably Stupid are, well, stupid. But I'm sure he'd love to see all of you. Let's go now, Billy . . ."

78IH 507

TO AND FRO IN THE BALKANS

JUN 27 1979

Winter, 1906: England builds A LON; Germany builds A MUN

AUSTRIA (Kelly): A VIE S A Bud-Tri; A Bud-TRI; A Bul-SER; F GRE H

ENGLAND (Katz): F ENG C A Lon-Pic; A Lon-PIC; F HOL H; A Tyo-PIE; A Bur-MAR;
A GAS S A Bur-Mar; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn; F WES-Tyn; F Mid-NAF; F Bre-MID

GERMANY (Shaffer): A MUN-Ber; A Tri-Vie/d/r Alb, Tyo, Otb; A Ser-BUD

ITALY (Kassel): F AEG-Ion; F Smy-Con/d/r Syr, Eas,Otb; F ION-Tun; F TYN S F Ion-Tun; A Pie-VEN; A Mar-Gas/ann.; F Por-SPAsc

RUSSIA (Hayner): A ARM S TURKISH A Ank-Smy; F Bla-BULec; A UKR & A RUM S A War-Gal;
A War-GAL; A Sil-BOH; F KIE S F Bal-Ber; F Bal-BER

TURKEY (Pilant): F CON S A Ank-Smy; A Ank-SMY

Some interesting tactics here, what with the Marseilles annihilation and the 3-power chain of Balkan moves that neatly dove-tailed into Austria successfully moving, yet losing 2 to gain 2 centers back. And, can Turkey follow Germany's lead to a small COMEBACK? "The Shadow knows", and so will I, come Fall 07, due with my mail received here WEDNESDAY, July 11, 1979. Press follows.

Rome: The American Embassy in Moscow congratulates the Pope on earning the prestigious Nathan Hale Award this year. It is urged, however, to NOT make use of the Golden Noose

79H

AUSTRIAN ARMY VIENNA BLOCKS GERMAN FLEET NORWAY!

JUL 2 1979

Winter, 1904: Austria builds A VIE, A BUD; English A StP, F Edi r OTB; France builds F MAR; Germany builds A MUN; Russian A Ukr r SEV; Russian F Nwy
"retreats straight up in the air screaming" (r OTB); Turkish A Ank r OTB

SPRING, 1905:

AUSTRIA (Hamill): A VIE-Tyo; A BUD-Gal; A UKR S A Rum-Sev; A Rum-SEV; A Bul-CON;
F Con-ANK

ENGLAND (Mitchell): F Pic-ENG; F Eng-WAL

FRANCE (Brown): F Mar-PIE; F GLYO S F Mar-Pie; F WES S F GLyo; A BRE, A LVP,
A LON, F CLY H

GERMANY (Kirchner): A Gas-BUR; A MUN-Tyo; A Bel-RUH; F Nwg-NTH; A WAR-Gal;
F DEN-Kie; A SWE-Den; F Nwy-Swe

ITALY (Guajardo): A TUN, F TYN H; A VEN-Pie; F TUS S F Tyn; F AEG S AUSTRIAN
A Bul-Con; F ION S F Aeg

RUSSIA (Cartier): A Sev-MOS; A Fin-STP; A KIE-Mun

TURKEY (Kassel): F SMY-Aeg; F EAS S F Smy-Aeg

Looks like this will be the last year for a full crew of 7. We'll see with my mail received here MONDAY, JULY 16, 1979. Press follows.

PARIS: The French War Ministry is committed to world peace. To further this aim, no new offensives are planned, only defensive safeguards.

The Eastern Front wargame begins!

Soviet initial comments:

The opening problem is that you are outmanned AND outgunned. The Panzers can mass enough firepower to go anywhere they want. My decision was to make the line so strong that they could only do it in ONE place, one small sector. The danger is an overrun, 12 units in a pocket, and nothing between the Germans and Moscow.

Axis initial comments:

Well, here we go. I just hope the army lasts through the first winter. The untried units really provide an interesting twist and unknown to the game.

Rather than attack all or most of the units, I decided to make deep penetrations in the north and south and see if I can seal off most of the front line units, making them attack me. I don't know if this will work or even if it is the best strategy, but it's a start.

Editor comments: 1) Re: Soviet comments. The Soviet player's newness showed in his defense, as numerous sectors could have been overrun, and indeed, between this game and the two "sample" starts sent in by Bill Shaffer who is more knowledgeable of this game, numerous overruns WERE made. I think that the Soviet player lucked out in having only 8 units in the bag, as it could have been a max of 12, which would have been catastrophic.

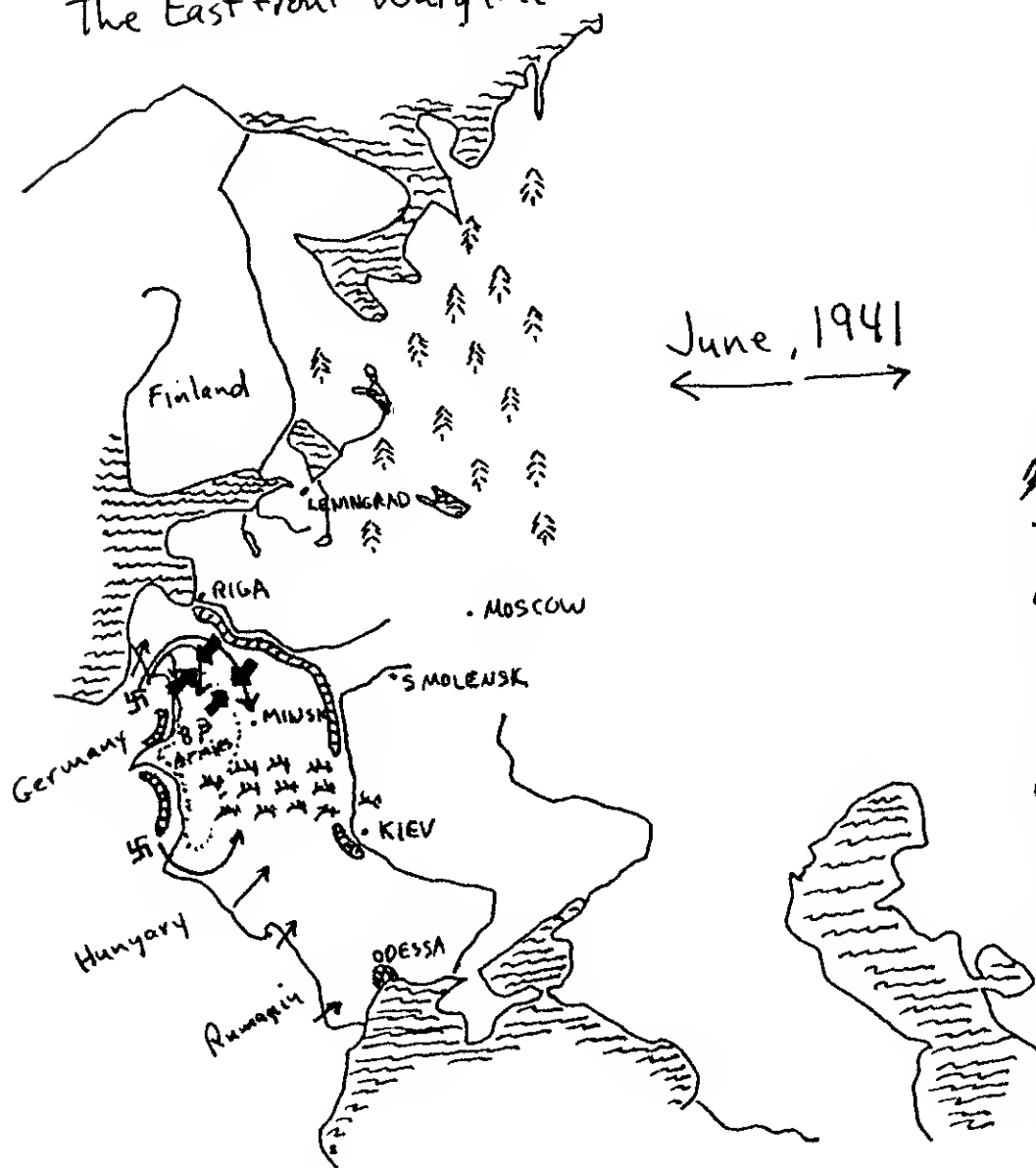
Re: German comments: The German plan sounds good, but unfortunately, the deep penetration in the north did not go deep enough, leaving the Russian with a doubled and overrun-proof line from the Baltic to Kiev for July, the second of the 3 best months Germany will have. Conversely, he has numerous good Soviet units either in the open for easy picking, or further isolation ($\frac{1}{2}$ the Soviet heavy Mech Corps are tied up in Brest and Kiev, e.g.). The German had terrible luck, getting exchanges in every attack that wasn't an automatic--still, the only one that really hurt was the big Minsk exchange. Those lost Pzkorps can't be taken back, as the $\frac{1}{2}$ -casualties-in-lieu-of-replacements is too costly in view of the pretty large July reinforcements due. So the war will go on with only 3 big "Panzerarmee" equivalents instead of the actual 4. He will receive the use of 3 handy air units, however, to partially compensate for this. The German bagged a reasonable number of Soviet units, but the pocket attacked out and SUCCEEDED in the main, taking out two infantry armies equivalence. The German won't notice the loss yet, but come late October and probable mud, their loss will begin to show.

As a rule of thumb, Germany needs to destroy 12 Soviet cities, that is, take them before their industry is removed. The USSR will be able to pull out 1 a month starting next month, so Germany needs to get about 7 more, or ten if we make allowance for removals under the wire. Brest is in the bag, but that means Germany must take the general line Rzhev-Kalinin-Orel-Kursk-Kharkov-Dnepropetrovsk before the winter snows come. He's sure to get SOME of them, but can he take them quickly enough? Kiev, having been declared a fortress, has no zone of control, so while strong, it's a gift bag for Germany. Watch next turn for Axis gains vs. these most vulnerable targets: Riga, Daugavpils, Odessa/Nikolayev. Coups in Finland, Hungary, and Bulgaria to try for allies more committed to the war are also a possibility. Germany's next big chance for critical-breakthrough-type moves will be the turn after next, his August 41 turn. Not a hell of a lot he can do for July now except to mop up the Kaunas group of open Soviet units, maybe force Riga and Odessa, and cross the Dnieper in force above and below Kiev. Other possibilities include forcing the central Dnieper and/or attacks to reduce Brest, and possible units shifted to Finland in preparation for any possible later coup attempt (as an insurance force). So, I'm predicting August will be more exciting than July, but let's see if these fellows can prove me wrong.

Questions and inquiries should be addressed to the editor.

J.M.
Maps & charts follow.

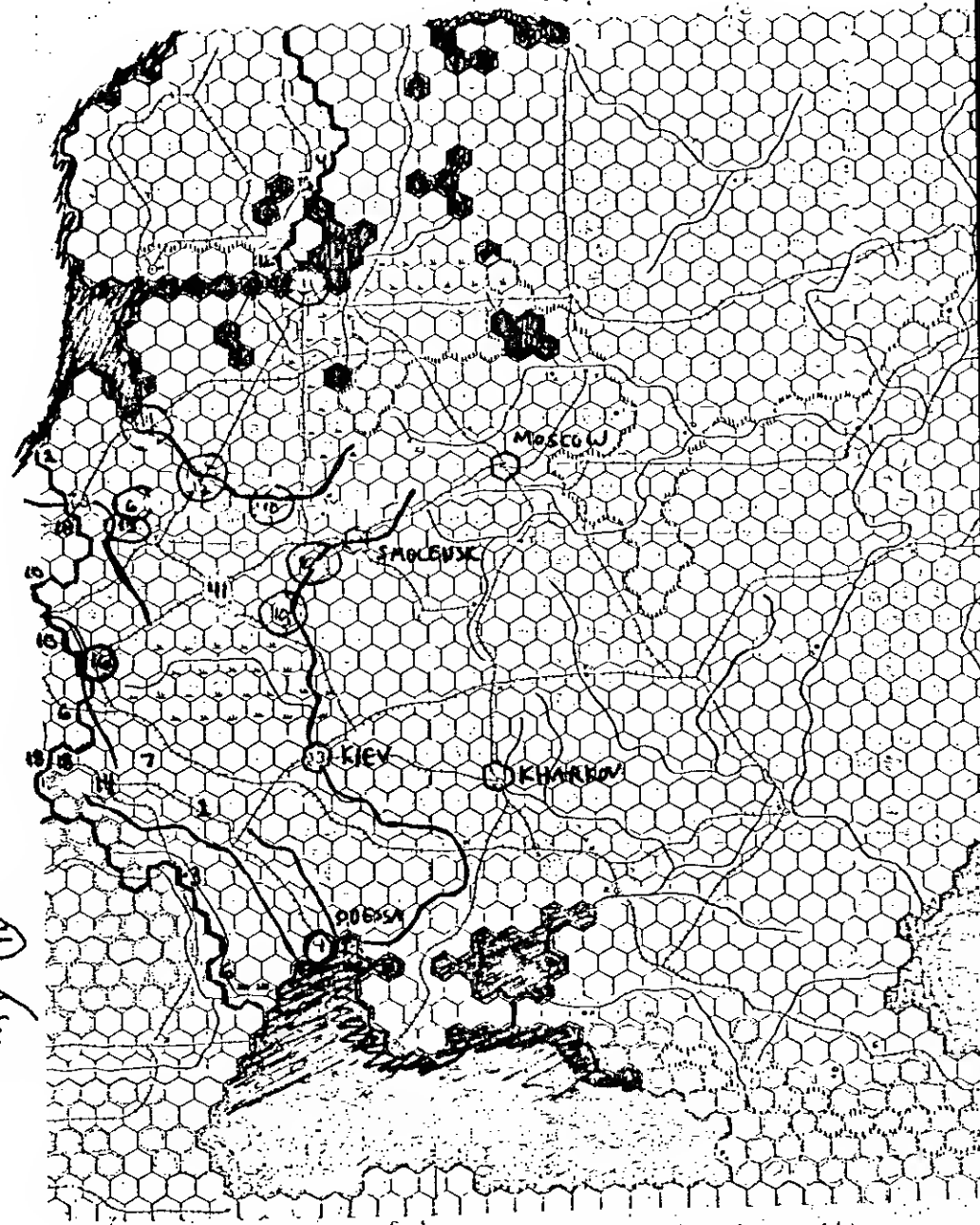
The East front Wargame



June, 1941
←→

☸ → Axis initial thrusts

↔ Soviet breakout attacks
(The northern attack at Kaunas succeeded.
The southern attack at Vilnius was an
exchange — probably a net Soviet gain.)



Actual positions at end of Soviet June 41 turn.
(End of 1st month, or gameturn).
Combat factors only are listed, total strength
of stack. Soviet forces are circled. Fortresses have
been declared in Brest, Odessa, Kiev.

Wargame Commentary
From an Impartial Bystander:

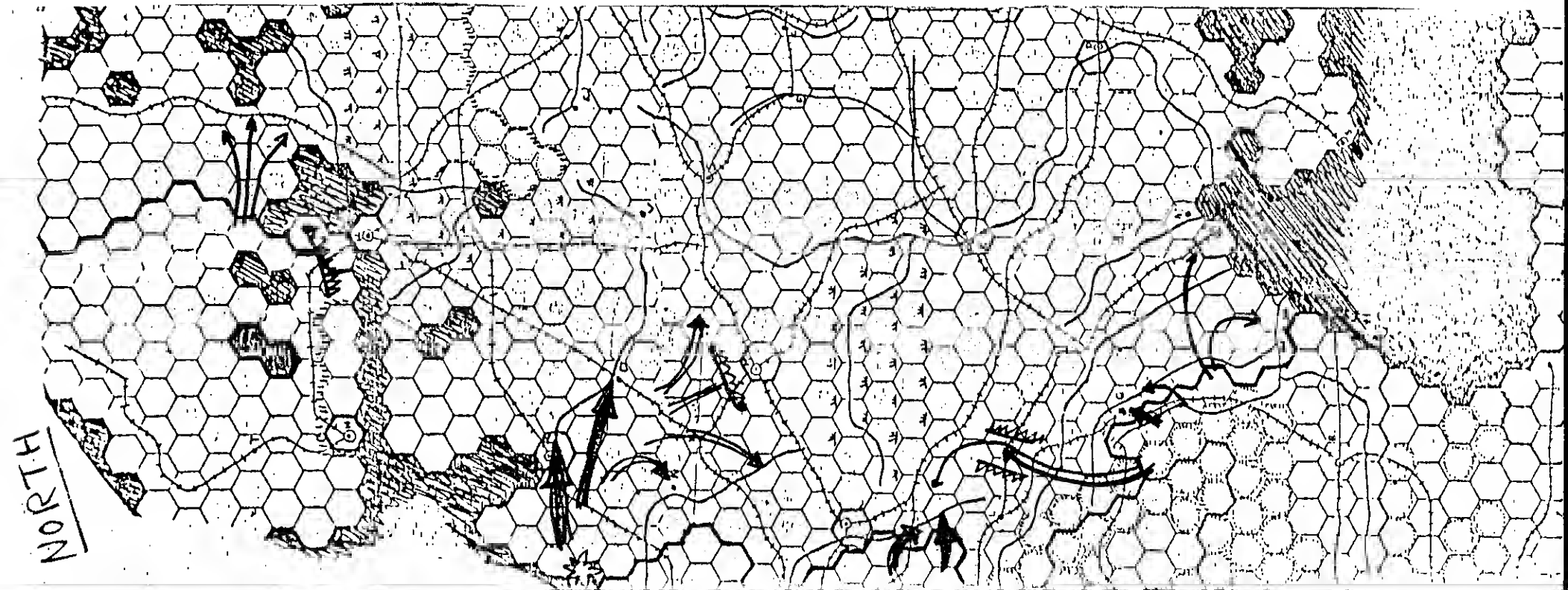
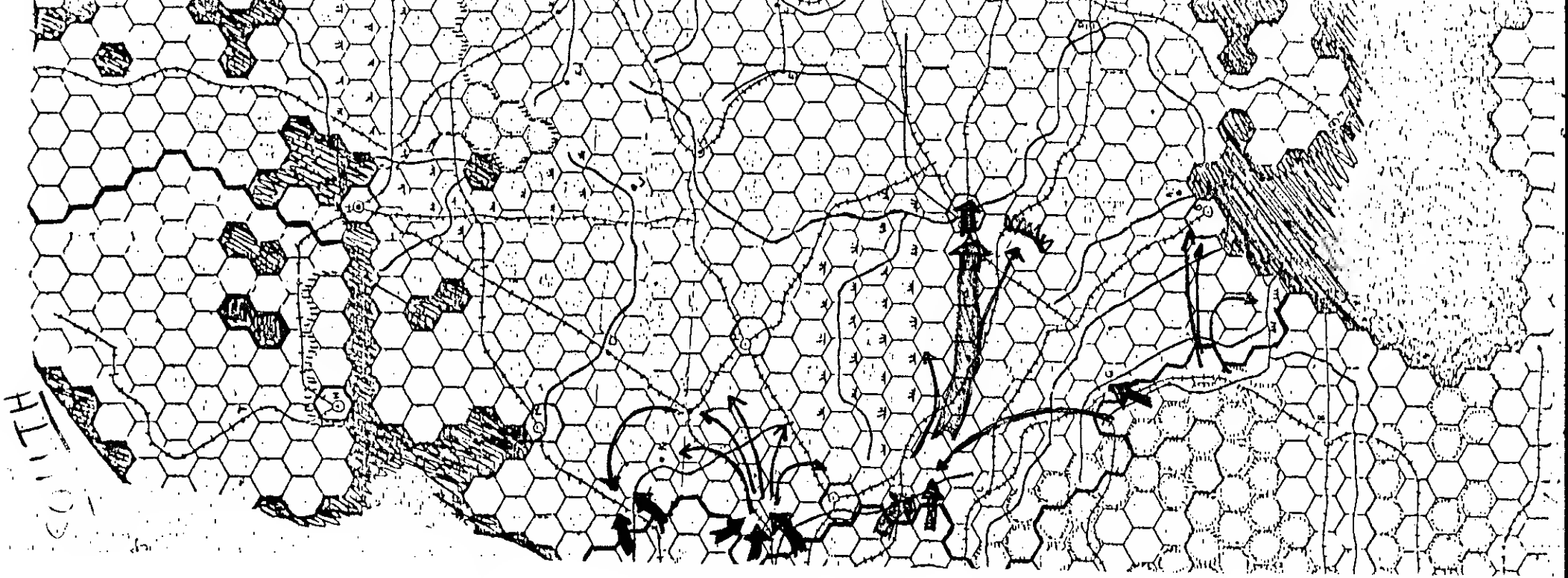
I know not who the Russian is in this game but it is quite obvious he has not been playing this version of the Eastern Front long. As a player of vast experience in this game I can see several short comings of this defense. One it opens a whole list of chances to the German player. Two of what I feel are the best options are one the Southern Thrust and you decide the game in a die roll for Kiev. The other being a northern thrust and keep the south clear for July.

First I will take the Southern Strategy. You can cut off 11/12 units and overrun the 9 in the key position of the Lvov gap and put a 2/1 on Kiev which is up graded to a 3/1 on turn one. The advantages of this are great. 1) if the 3/1 gets a DE only God and the stupidity of the German player can stop him from overrunning the whole damn heartland of Russia in 41. What I mean is that the Russian will have 11 units caught in the bag with being surrounded in June. That leaves only 12 units in the cream of the Axis ways in July. With the Dnieper line broken the next possible line is the Kharkov/Kursk/Dnepetrovsk line. You let me have a shot at that with the units that are required to get the 2/1 on Kiev, and by God I'll hit all three with a Stuka to boot, oneotta fall. If the Germans get a EX at Kiev not much will happen if you have a half way competent Russian. So as you can see why I call the Southern Thrust a die roll. Good for a quick game, but not much more.

I prefer the 2nd option. To go North in 41. I also can put 11 units in Isolation and crack the Riga/Daugavpils line. You say what good can this bring me? Well, after 4 years at this game with John I can damn sure say that the way to win this one is get Moscow and Or Leningrad in summer of 41. With 11 units in the bag I can do it in this one. With the fall of Daugavpils I can hit Leningrad next turn or go for Moscow. He can stop me from one but not both. The reason for going this way the Russian cannot lose a major city in the first 6 months without a whopping penalty. It is this penalty that kills them for me. I have not seen the German offense but, The Russian can feel quite secure in that I am not in this one. For if I was I think I could get a 41 Victory, and a sure victory in 42.

((To back up his claim, the author sent in two different attack plans, one representing each one he describes. His southern strategy, just as in the main game, came up with an exchange in a key battle, here the Kiev attack. This was a crippling loss, as 4 Panzerkorps, over 25% of the real 1941 armored force available, went down the tubes. Conversely, the author above bagged more units than did the regular Axis commander, and the 4 surviving armored corps in the central Ukraine face clear sailing to KHARKOV for July 1941, a not inconsiderable accomplishment. Also, please note that in both of the plans submitted by the above author, he took considerable pains to cross the West Dvina River (Riga-Daugavpils--Vitebsk) the first turn, unlike the Axis commander in the regular game. The crucial aspect of this is apparent by the impasse faced by the Axis forces in the main game, where a doubled line of very considerable strength exists from the Baltic to Kiev, with the fortress of Brest blocking the shortest rail access to boot, eliminating the chance of shifting major forces to a more promising front. Actually, then, Bill Shaffer's tries on the next page give the Axis a better chance in EITHER case than it actually turned out for the "regular" German player! On the other hand, Shaffer does have some 40 or so games under his belt, which also helps. If these two continue these side "test" games, I'll let you know in broad outline, how they turn out.))

J.M.



~~Bure~~aucratic Blunders

GSA employees aren't the only scofflaws on the public payroll these days. Two former senators and 10 ex-representatives have skipped out of office leaving unpaid phone bills—some of them enormous. Ultra-liberal congressman Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), who chose retirement over defeat in 1978, heads the list of delinquents with a \$8,154 bill—and has no intention of paying it, according to an aide. Other delinquents include Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), recently convicted of a payroll kickback scheme, who owes \$1,250; ex-Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.), \$1,767; Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.; ACU rating of 8 percent), \$860; Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-Wash., D.C.), the prime mover behind the D.C. Amendment, \$262; and Bob Bergland, now U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who owes \$65.

(Harold B. Johnson)

Although he has been indicted for illegally prescribing drugs and for distributing marijuana, HEW employee Dr. Thomas C. Cloud III has just been awarded a \$12,000 bonus by his employer. HEW also gave Cloud, who works at the Hobson City, Ala., Primary Care Center (which is run by HEW's National Health Service Corps), \$5,000 to defend himself against his drug charges, a move sharply criticized by Birmingham, Ala., U.S. Attorney J. R. Brooks.

(Donald E. Burns)

Fraud possibilities in California's post-card registration plan were revealed when 1978 Republican secretary of state candidate Jay Margosian registered his pet cat to vote in the state. Margosian received confirmation in early October of a voter registration

form he sent in September 15. Said Margosian, "We sent in the official name we gave the cat on birth—Joanne K. (for Kitty) Margosian." (Dan M. Jacobson)



Carpeted sidewalks: An artist, known simply as Christo, has carpeted three miles of Kansas City, Mo., sidewalks in an orange-yellow nylon fabric to call attention to "people's feet and the way they walk." Cost to taxpayers: \$100,000.

In its unquenchable thirst for knowledge, the federal government has funded the following studies:

\$2,500 for a study showing that fat people would rather dine at all-you-can-eat smorgasbords than order from a menu. (Dr. Albert Stunkard of the University of Pennsylvania; funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.)

\$2,360 to probe the sex life of female Costa Rican crickets. Explained grant recipient Christine Boake of Cornell University: "Well, if you apply human values to them, crickets are quite sexy

little things. The males fight with each other and the one who comes out on top is the one that gets to mate the most. Male crickets often far outnumber receptive females. Under such circumstances, it's possible to speak of a female choice and ask what characteristics of the male are important in determining his chances of mating."

\$100,000 to study why hermit crabs pick one seashell over another to live in; the experiment includes crushing the shells the crabs inhabit and then forcing each creature to choose a new shell. (Dr. Kenneth van der Laan, University of California at Santa Barbara; funded by the National Science Foundation).

(Roger Cook)

Not content merely to study wildlife, the federal government has also been housing and feeding it: \$100,000 in federal money recently went to Anheuser-Busch, Inc., for tending 205 Amazon parrots. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service seized the parrots in the fall of 1974 because they had been illegally imported, but then discovered it had nowhere to put the birds. So it asked Anheuser-Busch to keep the parrots in the company's Van Nuys, Calif., Busch Gardens and run up a tab. The Fish and Wildlife folks then forgot about the parrots for three years, until they received a care-and-feeding bill from Busch Gardens this past April.

(Irl R. Richardson)

The U.S. Post Office of Indianapolis, Ind., eager to promote better "customer understanding," set up a workshop for local businessmen for November 15 last year. Unfortunately, 2,000 of the invitations were delivered too late for the recipients to meet the registration deadline.

(Mrs. William Ellerman)



"I always heard that drill sergeants were TOUGH... HE didn't look so tough!"

— Army Reserve

Number of movement factors turned into railroad movement:

D

RAILROAD MOVEMENT TABLE

| | Speed of Unit | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 15 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 30 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 23 | 30 | |
| 4 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 20 | 30 | | |
| 5 | 13 | 15 | 19 | 25 | | | |
| 6 | 15 | 18 | 23 | 30 | | | |
| 7 | 18 | 21 | 26 | | | | |
| 8 | 20 | 24 | 30 | | | | |
| 9 | 23 | 27 | | | | | |
| 10 | 25 | 30 | | | | | |
| 11 | 28 | | | | | | |
| 12 | 30 | | | | | | |

ALLIED DEFECTION TABLE

- 1 Loyal
- 2 Deserts
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Neutral
- 5 Loyal
- 6 Neutral
- 7 Deserts
- 8 Neutral
- 9 Deserts
- 0 Loyal

WEATHER TABLE

| Roll | October | November | March | April |
|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Mud | Mud | Snow | Mud |
| 2 | Good | Snow | Mud | Good |
| 3 | Mud | Snow | Mud | Mud |
| 4 | Mud | Snow | Mud | Mud |
| 5 | Mud | Mud | Snow | Mud |
| 6 | Mud | Snow | Mud | Mud |
| 7 | Good | Snow | Mud | Good |
| 8 | Mud | Snow | Mud | Mud |
| 9 | Good | Snow | Mud | Good |
| 0 | Mud | Mud | Snow | Mud |

FINNISH PARTICIPATION TABLE

- 1 Neutral*
- 2 Full/Good
- 3 Limited
- 4 Limited
- 5 Neutral*
- 6 Limited
- 7 Full/Good
- 8 Limited
- 9 Limited
- 0 Limited

Sundry tables for the East front wargame.



"GLAD YOU'RE THE LAST TO BE DISCIPLINED FOR KOREAGATE, CONGRESSMAN. I'M FLAIN WORN OUT"

—Conservative Digest

Ain't it the truth? It sure pays to be in the right party. Nixon gets run out of the Presidency for trying to protect his friends who'd set up and botched a spy effort; these guys are caught with their hands in the till, and what do we hear about them?

J.M.

Memorandum of Agreement and Covenant concluded 14 June 1979

1. Transfer of Office of Miller Number Custodian

Effective immediately, Gregory Costikyan succeeds Robert Sacks as Miller Number Custodian. At a date to be set by the acting Miller Number Custodian, Michael Smolin, at his convenience, not earlier than 30 June 1979 nor later than 31 August 1979, he will transfer all Miller Number operations to the new Custodian.

2. Initial Staff for the new Custodian

Control of the staff of the Miller Number Custodian rests fully with the new Custodian. Initially the Vice Custodian shall be John Leeder. Robert Sacks shall continue to serve as Associate Custodian for Projects with such responsibilities as may be agreed upon from time to time, initially the Miller Number Designator Recategorization project and the regular provision of a Known Variants Openings list for the Miller Number 'zine. Raymond Heuer and his successors as Director of Orphan Games, for as long as they are mindful of their duties to variant orphans and recognize the authority of the Miller Number Custodian, shall serve as Associate Custodian for Orphans, until and unless some alternate arrangement is agreed to by the Custodian and the Director, or the office of Director of Orphan Games is directly included in the Constitution for Variants. At the earliest opportunity (on conclusion of the Irish postal strike) Robert Sacks will tender to Dermot Garvey the posts of Associate Custodian for Europe and Orphans in Europe, provided he recognizes the authority of the Miller Number Custodian.

3. Constitutional Provisions

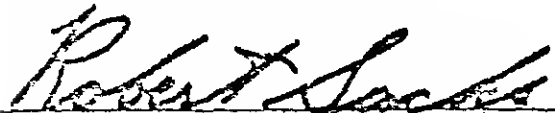
The Miller Number Custodian is an independent hobby officer responsible for the assignment of numbers for postal games of diplomacy variants. The Diplomacy Variant Commission (when it is reconstituted) has the right to advise the Custodian; no other group has any control over the Custodian. Should the office of Custodian fall vacant without any designated successor or Vice Custodian, the Commission shall elect the next Custodian. The Custodian may only be removed by an impeachment for cause by the Vice Custodian, or the previous Custodian if there is no Vice Custodian, adopted by the Commission after a juridical hearing. Cause for removal shall be refusal or inability to assign or have an Associate Custodian assign a valid Miller Number on presentation of information commonly required for such assignment, either in a consistent manner or as a deliberate act against any person or group. These Constitutional provisions shall be included in the Constitution for Variants.

4. Miscellaneous

The Miller Number Custodian has full rights to have published as the Miller Number 'zine the 'zine founded by Robert Sacks for that purpose, "Lord of Hosts", except for the personal coat-of-arms he used, but if the Miller Number Custodian should ever renounce "Lord of Hosts", all rights to publication as a private 'zine revert to Robert Sacks.

No Miller Number Custodian, nor any Associate authorized to assign Miller Numbers, will ever require payment or trade or other value as a prerequisite for the assignment of a Miller Number.

It is specifically understood under the Constitutional provisions that no radical change will be made in the Miller Numbers or Designators except on the considered and reasoned advice of the Diplomacy Variant Commission and the Miller Number Custodian Staff to which the Custodian concurs.



Robert Sacks, MNC

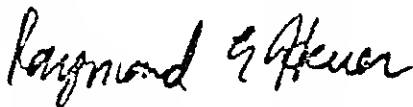
15 June 1979



Gregory Costikyan, MNC

15 June 1979

Witness:



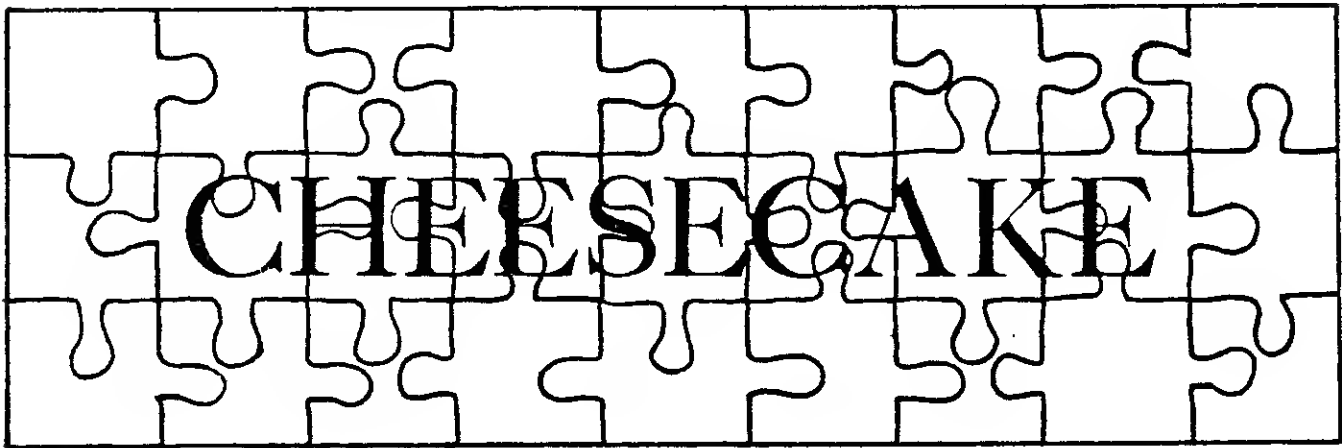
Cap'n Andy's Puzzle Page

HEY GANG! HERE ARE FOUR FUN PUZZLES FOR YOU!

1. CONNECT THE DOTS TO SEE WHAT'S THERE.



2. CUT OUT THE BOX BELOW AND GLUE IT TO A PIECE OF CARDBOARD. NEXT CUT ALONG THE BLACK LINES, MIX UP THE PIECES, AND ASSEMBLE THE PUZZLE TO DISCOVER THE SECRET MESSAGE.



3. CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AND FIND WHAT SUPPLY CENTER IS CAPTURED?

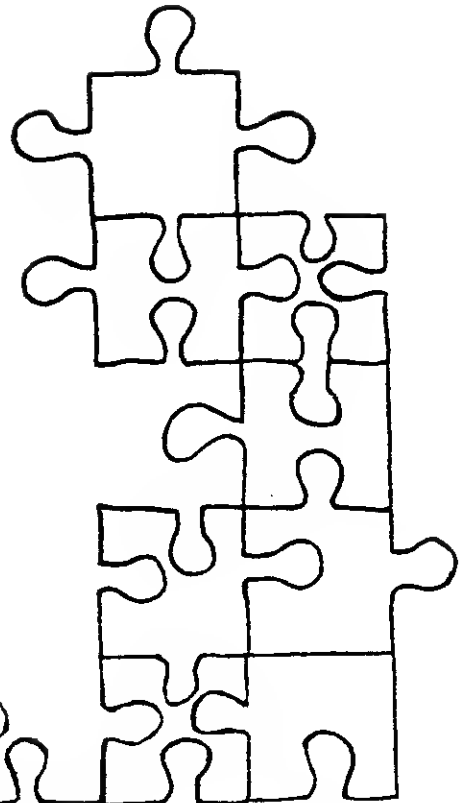
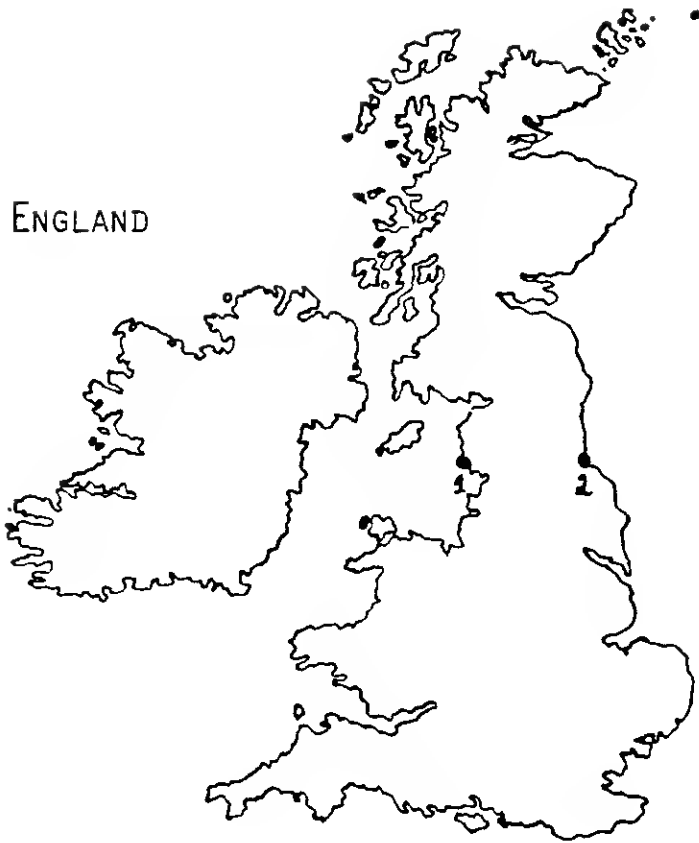
SIR--PRAPS YIR DADS A YAM

4. HERE'S ANOTHER SECRET MESSAGE. WITH THE EDGE OF A COIN, RUB THE BOX AND SEE WHAT IT IS.

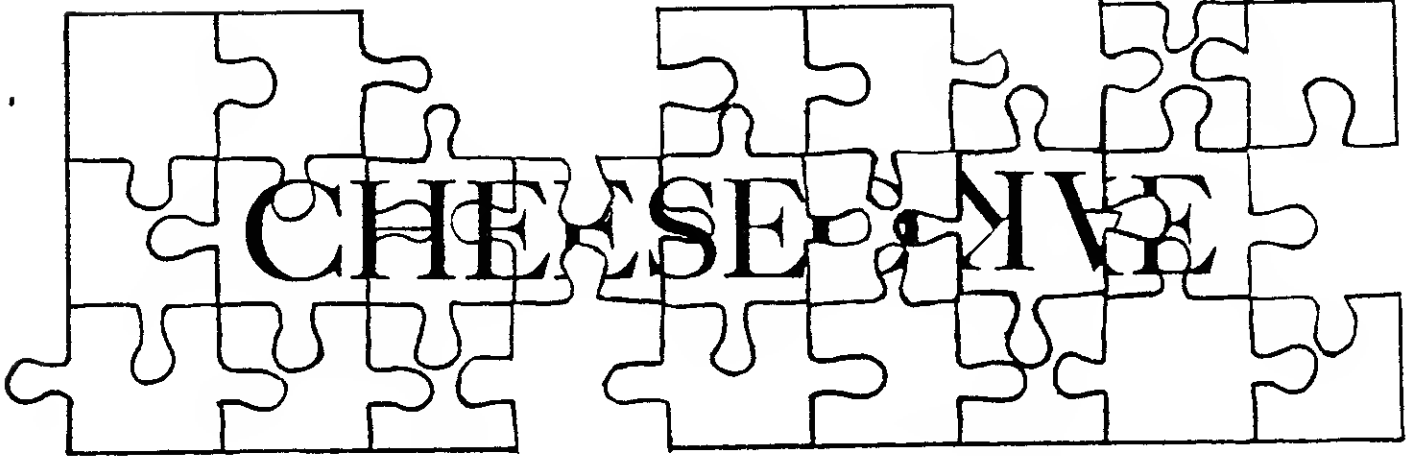


ANSWERS ON ~~PAGE 2~~ Reverse

1. ENGLAND



2.



(USING PLASTIC SCISSORS AND PERMATEX)

3. A SYR-DIP
A ARM S A SYR-DIP

DIP IS CAPTURED

4. RUB HARDER

RUB HARDER!

Episode 39 from "Racket Squad":

Updates on news of the "Bernie Oaklyn"/Buddy Tretick fraud.

LEE KENDTER has acted on my suggestion and issued a warning to stay away from anything Tretick/"Oaklyn" etc. is handling. Thanks, Lee.

CONRAD VON METZKE is accepting Buddy/Bernie in his own subzine COSTAGUANETTA to Don Horton's CLAW & FANG, for whatever reasons. From his remarks as to how he wouldn't let in both Bernie and any of his other front-names in the same game, it is apparent that Metzke is aware of Tretick's fraud, but simply doesn't want to do anything about it as long as it doesn't directly screw him just this minute. It's because of attitudes like that that Tretick has flourished this long.

ONE OF THE NEWEST publishers in the business is offering an alternative home to Tretick's games if the non-Tretick players agree. Strange how the new and fairly new people are willing to act, while lots of these older timers just sit on their hands. Is it because Tretick has been screwing the hobby for a decade now, so they figure it's safer to just go along with him a'la Metzke?

One notable exception to this has been JOHN BOARDMAN (GRAUSTARK) who recently threw "Oaklyn" out. John Boardman and I are about as far apart as can be on most everything, but here, at least, I have to respect his willingness to openly act when so many others lack the will, the sense, or both.

MARK BERCH, quoted here often of late, (DIPLOMACY DIGEST), came out with a really strange piece in this latest issue. I wrote Mark on it, but the more I think about it, the more incomprehensible such stupidity seems to me. Here Mark, who did an admirable job in expanding on Ron Kelly's expose' of Tretick's crimes, gets my list of suggestions of responses to Tretick (primarily, that he be thrown out of all games across the face of the hobby) by jumping in to the DEFENSE of this same clown he has just shown to be a fraud and thief, whining that it would be unfair to punish Tretick in games that we haven't yet caught him screwing up. "Guilt by association", he calls my proposals, saying "even if someone commits 10 robberies, you still must prove the case for the 11th". All I can deduce is that Mark must be a knee-jerk liberal who must instantly rise to the defense of anyone or, in this case, anything against whom any kind of effective action is proposed. "11th robbery" aside, my proposals are directed to the 10 that Mark himself, among MANY others, has shown Tretick has already perpetrated. Mark ignores all that, though. 'It might be unfair to Tretick's allies in other games'. The only 'guilt by association' is that of associating Tretick with the guilt his frauds have earned him, but Mark uses that new-left logic similar to what was said by the environmentalists when the Tussock moths were eating northwestern forests bare: 'Don't spray and kill the moths, it could make the birds sick'. Mark says in effect, 'Don't throw this fraud out, because that would cause an NMR. Better to leave this cheat alone and unpunished'. I'm sure Mark, with his gift of rhetoric, will have another noble-sounding response, but to me, such as his recent Tretick defense is simple stupidity, and an insult to Mark's character. It is totally unbecoming someone like him from whom I had expected far better.

✓ MANEUVERS 79 is the name of a wargame convention at Florida State University scheduled for October 5, 6, & 7 at the Tallahassee campus. For further information, write W. G. Kirkpatrick, P O Box FSU 6531, Tallahassee, FL 32313.

✓ REPRO on our new machine is good, but the feed mechanism jiggles some around, cutting off parts of pages at times like the bottom of the reverse. The other machine makes poorer copies and often botches them, like the 10 extra covers I had to run to try and get an adequate number of good ones. Publishing is one long unending joy.

J.M.

REVIEWS

'Zine reviews provide publishers and players alike with a valuable service. Publishers get a free plug, as well as (hopefully) helpful criticism, while players can get some idea of the qualities of 'zines which may be unknown to them. Although I only receive six 'zines at present, my opinion of each may be of some benefit to my subscribers.

However, I don't feel like reviewing 'zines, so I'll review chicken pot pies.

SWANSON (Campbell Soup Comp., Camden, N.J. 08101)

I had high hopes for this 'pie, based on Campbell's excellent TOMATO SOUP, but it just doesn't measure up. Considering what you get, the price is high at 52¢. A unique feature which other 'pies could do well to copy is the pre-punched air vents.

BANQUET (Banquet Foods Corp., St. Louis, Missouri 63102)

The FOL-SI-FIE of chicken pot pies. BANQUET is still my favorite 'pie although lately there're more potatoes and not as much chicken. An average price of 39¢ makes BANQUET a bargain.

MORTON (Morton Frozen Foods Div., Rye, N.Y. 10580)

Not as tasty as BANQUET - despite more meat - but a fairly close second. One odd feature which takes some getting used to is no pie shell beneath the crust. 35 minute deadlines.

SWANSON TV DINNERS (Campbell Soup Comp. - address above)

Though not strictly a pot 'pie, TV DINNERS deserve a mention. STO has many fine features, with an emphasis on S&T (steak & 'tators) and always has another vegetable and dessert. The rates are high - anywhere from 83¢ to \$1.85 depending on the contents - but usually worth it.

I hope nobody is offended by my opinions. I've tried to be objective, and welcome any rebuttals.

William F. Buckley Jr. ((Pitt))

How Many Bullets for One War?

THERE are a lot of people waiting for a lot of people to take a definitive position on SALT II before doing so themselves. Sen. Henry Jackson is a valiant exception. Valiant because he has done his homework, which distinguishes him from most of the rest of the world, understandably dismayed by the awesomeness of the assignment.

A few days ago The New York Times' Anthony Lewis raised this year's version of what I call the Seymour Melman Syndrome, that there are more bullets in the world than there are people, so we don't need so many bullets.

Here are some figures which will help you in dealing with the Melman Syndrome.

During World War II, we dropped the equivalent of 500 Hiroshima-sized bombs (170 kilotons) on Germany. We killed a lot of Germans, but not, as we know, enough to save us the necessity of an invasion.

We dropped over twice as many tons of bombs on Indochina as on

we lost the war there, notwithstanding over a half-million American soldiers on the ground.

Now each one of our Minuteman missiles has three warheads, each one eight times as powerful as a Hiroshima bomb. Moreover, the projected MX missile will carry 10 bombs, each twice as powerful as existing Minuteman bombs. That means 10 bombs, each 16 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

One MX missile will carry more firepower than was dropped by all the bombs used in World War II plus Korea. SALT II limits ICBMs to 10 warheads each. Inasmuch as the Soviet SS-18 could carry as many as 40 MIRVed missiles, SALT II could have the effect of bringing down potential Soviet throw-weight by 75 percent per ICBM.

Since the force of an explosion has only a finite purpose, it is not clear what SALT hopes to effect by this apparent concession. The only conceivable purpose of forty 300,000-ton bombs instead of ten 30,000-ton

in the event you run short.

Why might one run short? Let us suppose the other powers snuffed out enough of your missiles that you were down to just one missile per major population center. But then, what circumstances would bring a superpower to take out some of the other superpower's missiles, when there were enough left to bring on suicidal retaliation?

We are dangerously close to asking, What is the point in the exercise? Defenders of SALT II have a terrible logical problem. They tell us we already have more than enough bombs to blow our respective land masses to smithereens, but then they tell us that without SALT II, the Russians would build more missiles. Why, if they already have more than they need?

And if President Carter is going to reassure those concerned about the looming Soviet advantage by launching a \$30 billion MX-MAPS program, what is the relevant economic point?

How about an article of sorts from your editor for a change? Since it's mid-summer, a good topic for our new graduates might be

GETTING A JOB

Some 5 years ago, I had finally received a degree (BBA, business, accounting Major), and set about the business of finding employment. First, I went to all the big outfits in town: banks, insurance companies, utilities. Fortunately for me, as it turned out, none of them hired me. Oh, the school had lots of offices and departments and what-not for getting you a job, but unless you're an engineer, forget that. For non-specialist or advanced stuff, the only other reason those places are seeking you is because they're too atrocious to draw applicants off the street. Or they're trying to find some token minority-type to fill their gov't quota. So skip that. Out in the real world, regular companies pick from among applicants, they don't go beating the bushes trying to find them. Five years ago, the utilities were paying the average starting pay, \$650 a month, gross. Some private firms, like I started with, paid above average for starters, \$700 a month. (The clerk we hired in my section last month started at that, thanks to the Democrat's inflation). The state gov't pegged the bottom of the barrel wage, \$550 a month.

Well, after looking on my own for a few weeks, I went to the state employment agency. Most folks going there could care less about work; all they want is unemployment money. I surprised them and sought job references. As a veteran, they were glad to. (Seems they get federal brownie points for employing veterans). Non-veterans looking for work were virtually non-existent.) Well, they did have some, and I learned something from them. People who hire through the (free) state employment agency do so because again, the jobs they have to offer were below par, and "normal" (=fee) agencies wouldn't refer anyone to them except the bottom-of-the-barrel types anyhow. I'd decided that, if I hadn't found work in 2 months, i.e., mid-July, I'd go to an agency. Well, I did some recruiting duty for the Air National Guard for earnings, and then went to an agency, a regular fee-type one. That too was an experience. First, they were real glad and eager to see me despite the fact that I'd just called to inquire how things work with employment agencies: I didn't know a thing about them. The woman was very eager to get me in there, tho, and off I went, still in the ANG uniform. The key factor, other than their natural greed to get warm bodies out on job calls to earn them fees, was that as an accounting major, I had a salable skill, unlike, say, some dude with his degree in English, or International Relations, or Art Appreciation, or Black Studies. Even such nicely-titled degrees such as "Marketing" are of little real value aside from the Civil Service where the above-mentioned types are forced to go ("Here's my degree, make me a GS 7"). The schools prepare this Marketing Major for positions such as president of a company, vice president, or at the very least, major department head; unfortunately, the personnel man doing the hiring wants to know if you can fill that first-line supervisory job he's got open, not whether you can decide the finances of the whole corporation. The student learns to make command decisions, but the people hiring want to know if you can work the cash register for your night shift job they've got with Kinney Shoes. Accountants are one of those rare areas anymore where you have something approaching a useable skill right at the start, and thus the eagerness of agencies to place such people. (What would YOU do with someone with a BA in Art Appreciation, after all?) They were further pleased in that, when asked what type of job I was looking for, I told them "a straight 9-to-5, sit-at-the-desk-and-chug-it-out-type job". Apparently from their happy reaction, they get a lot of wet behind the ears kids who come in asking for jobs with lots of "challenge", "excitement", and "contribution to the good of humanity" crap. I know there aren't any such animals, aside maybe from that of street cop, which is too dangerous for me. I figure, humanity can take care of itself and I'll get a job to take care of ME.

Now, how do the agencies work? The way mine went, it was a flat 10% of the gross annual income figure they got you, prorated if you worked less than 2 months. An important fact is that THEY want to be paid within 10 days of placing you, so don't think you can tell them to take $\frac{1}{2}$ your first 3 checks. They want it all, quick,

Continued

so if you don't have a couple of thousand stashed away or on call, check out some loan outfits at the same time. (The agencies are real friendly until it comes to the meaty stuff, like how do you propose to pay their fee next week. They want to waste no time nor effort with deadbeats without a dime, after all.) Still, from my experience, (I got hired by the first place I went, even before prospect #2 could interview me, for reasons that would make a second article on hiring), the fee you pay is well worth it. The agency doesn't want to place you in a joint that you'll leave in disgust after 2 weeks, after all. It is to their advantage to place you where both you and the employer will be happy, since it means money in their pockets. Never deal with a hole-in-the-wall outfit, but any large agency earns the chunk of bucks they hit you up for. They know where the jobs are, and they know where the highest-paying jobs are, and know what you're worth out there in the world, which you may not know. So if you're looking for a serious job, go in and lay it out for them, and be able to show you can pay, and you'll be placed pretty well.

Finally, salaries. Oklahoma used to be 25% below the national level for wages and cost-of-living, and probably still is 10-15% below. Here, a starting accountant can get \$1000 a month pretty easily; work out your own from there. (Thus, engineers could go 50% above that, while English majors and such can at best go straight to the Civil Service schedule, unless you want to enlist in the Services or the Post Office.) And women are discriminated against, and can expect 10% less if they can get hired at all.

Any of you just getting started are welcome to send in your own experiences, even if not for publication. I'd be interested in hearing how the market is outside of Oklahoma. (Anyone really wanting a job here can get one. That may not be true in the northeast, for instance. I don't know). Let's hear from you!

J.M.

